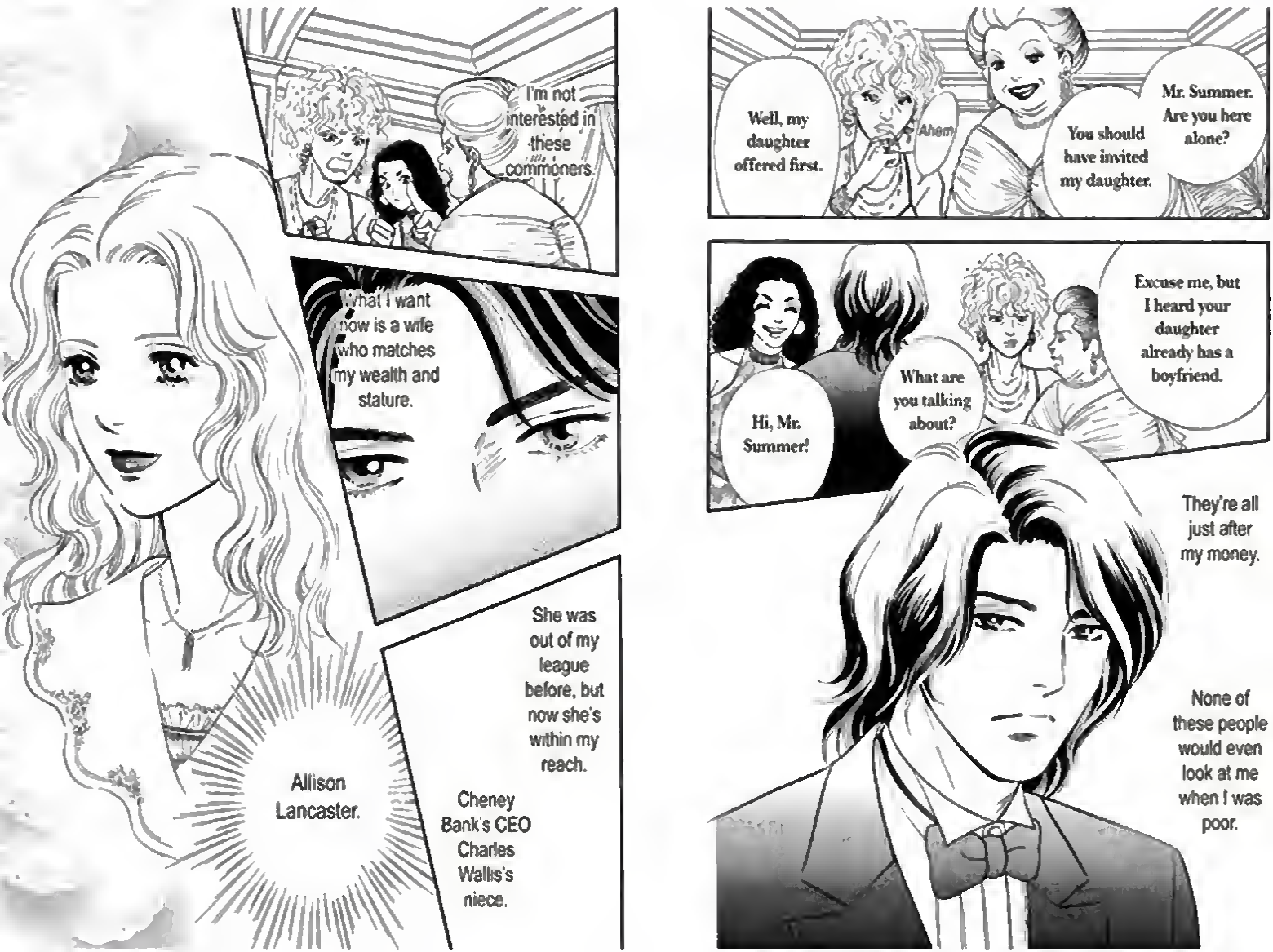
HARLEQUIN

An Arranged Marriage

Original Text by Susan Fox

Toyo Isshiki

Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming...
Is that Blue Summer?
It is!
He's become so attractive.
He used to be just a vulgar cowboy.
I guess money does that to you. The oil he discovered under his ranch made him a millionaire. And now he can be part of high society.


I'm not interested in these commoners.
What I want now is a wife who matches my wealth and stature.
She was out of my league before, but now she's within my reach.
Allison Lancaster.
Cheney Bank's CEO Charles Wallis's niece.
Well, my daughter offered first.
Ahem
You should have invited my daughter.
Mr. Summer. Are you here alone?
Hi, Mr. Summer!
What are you talking about?
Excuse me, but I heard your daughter already has a boyfriend.
They're all just after my money.
None of these people would even look at me when I was poor.

An Arranged Marriage

Toyo Isshiki

Original Text by Susan Fox

But I don't know him....
You should go to his ranch today and accept his proposal.

If this marriage goes ahead, he will invest a large amount of money into Cheney Bank.
I know him well.
She's right, Charles.
I can't let her marry someone we don't even know.
The time has come for you to repay me.
I have raised you as my own since your parents died.
Allison, you know about the situation with my bank?

I am to marry Mr. Summer?
What?
He has asked for your hand.
I hardly know him...
Why?

I haven't seen him since
A while back, he helped me when my tire went flat on a country road, but...

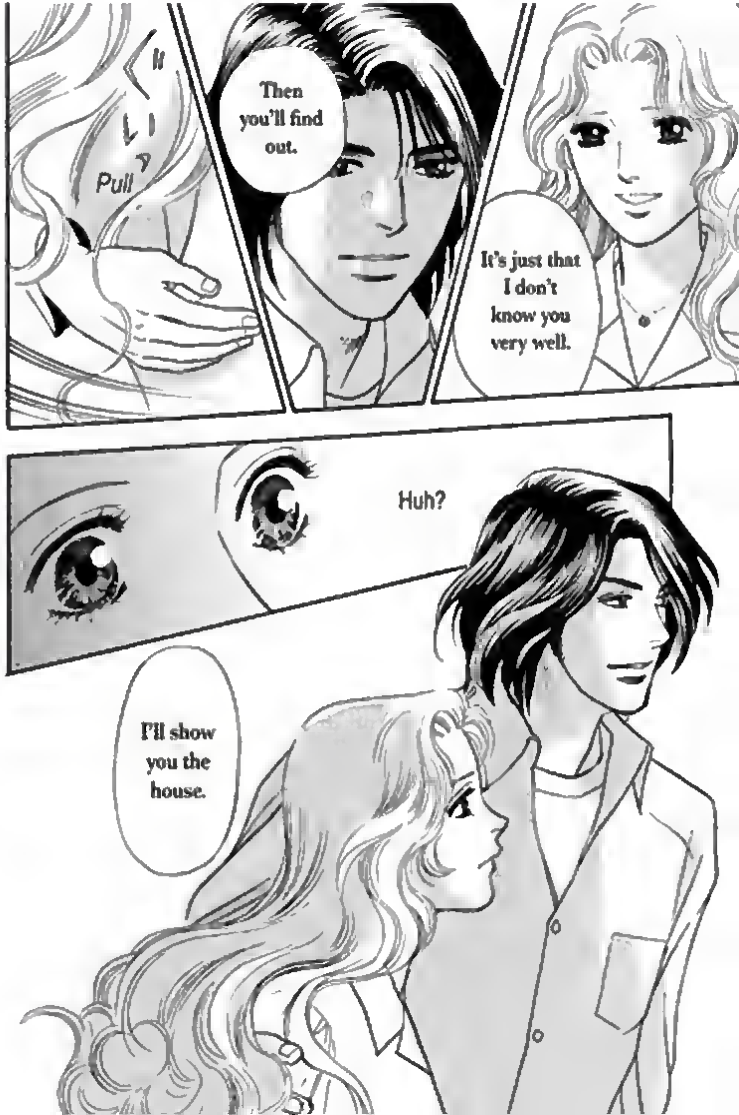
Allison, say no.
How selfish!
It's okay, Auntie.
His bank is in real trouble.
Auntie ...
I don't want you to go through that.
I know more than anyone how hard it is to marry without love.
Don't worry about the bank.
It's like we're selling you.
We are not related.
But I cared for you for nearly 20 years.
Shut up, Petula!
Allison is my niece. It is natural for us to take her in. She owes us nothing.
Okay?
Do not embarrass me!
I've already promised him you would answer him today.

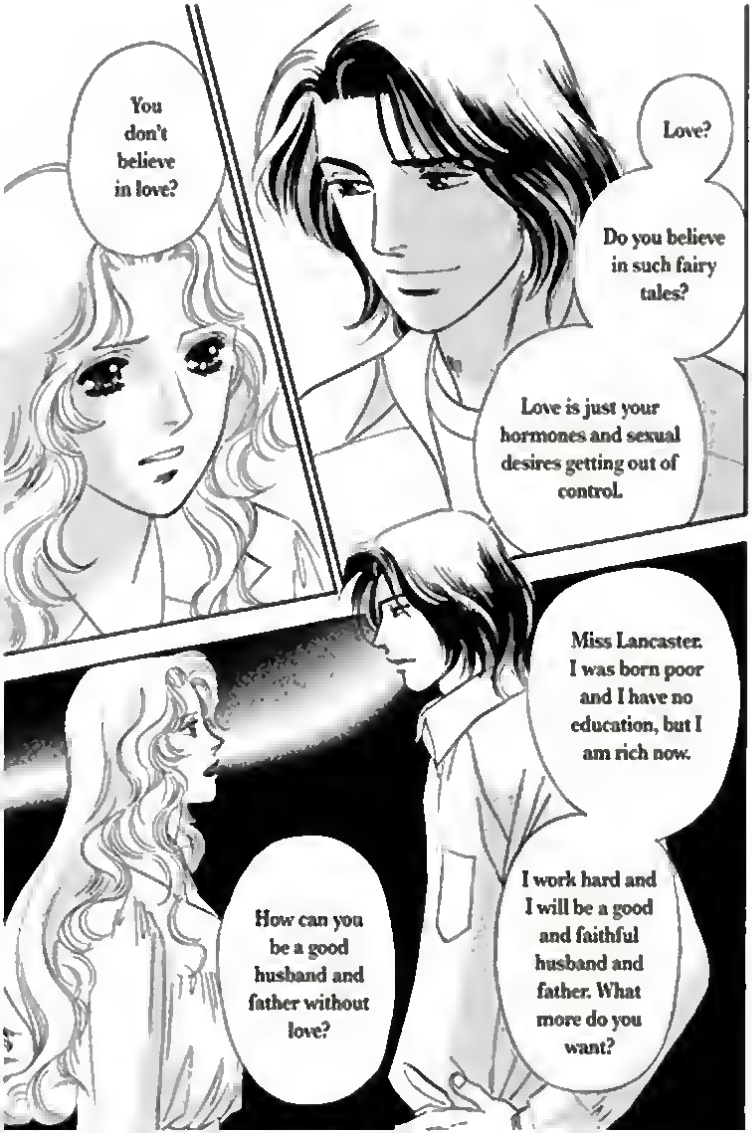
She's here.
Hello. I'm Allison Lancaster.
We've been expecting you.
I will call the master right away.
Does he live here by himself?
What a big house.

Auntie Petula said that, but...

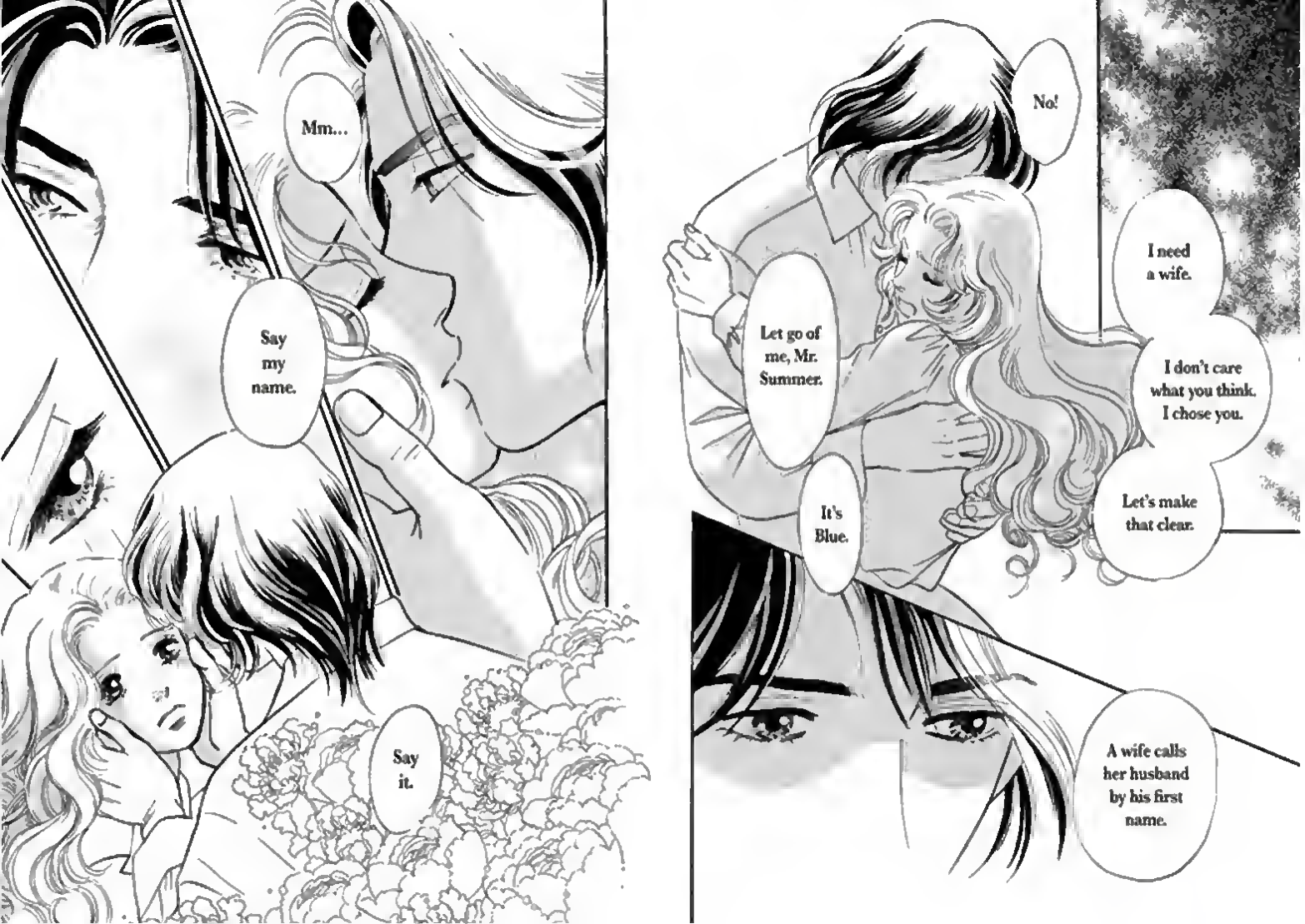
I wanted to have a chat before I gave an answer.
Um...
I cannot say no too easily. If I hurt his pride I don't know what would happen to my uncle's bank
Are you saying you don't want to marry me?
No, that's not what I mean.
Um ...
Was he this tall?
Thank you for coming, Miss Allison.
I was so surprised by your proposal.
And what is your answer?

The dining room.
The living room.
The study.
This will all be yours.
And the kitchen.


Pull
Then you'll find out.
It's just that I don't know you very well.
Huh?
I'll show you the house.

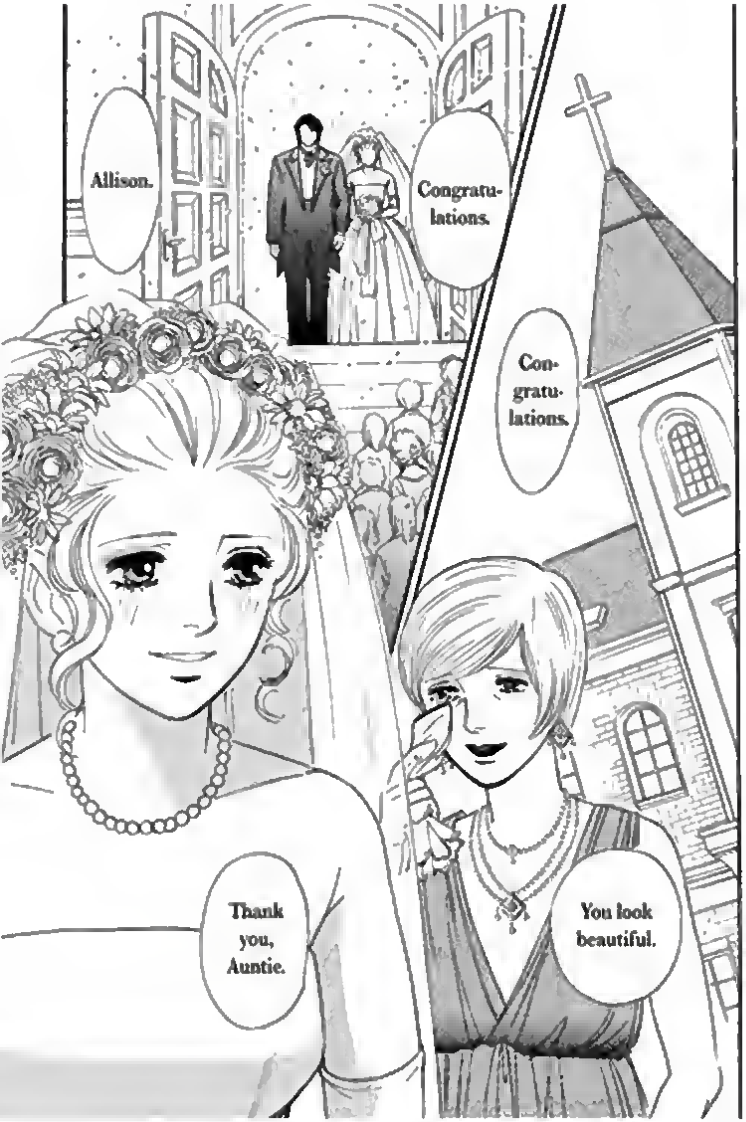

You don't believe in love?
Love?
Do you believe in such fairy tales?
Love is just your hormones and sexual desires getting out of control.
Miss Lancaster. I was born poor and I have no education, but I am rich now.
I work hard and I will be a good and faithful husband and father. What more do you want?
How can you be a good husband and father without love?

I want you to choose the furniture, too.
You can discuss what curtains and carpet you want with an interior designer.
You probably have better taste than me.
Please, wait.
I haven't said yes yet.
These things don't matter to me.
I want to love and be loved back by the man I marry.
You don't want to be with a woman who doesn't love you, either, do you?
Is this not enough?

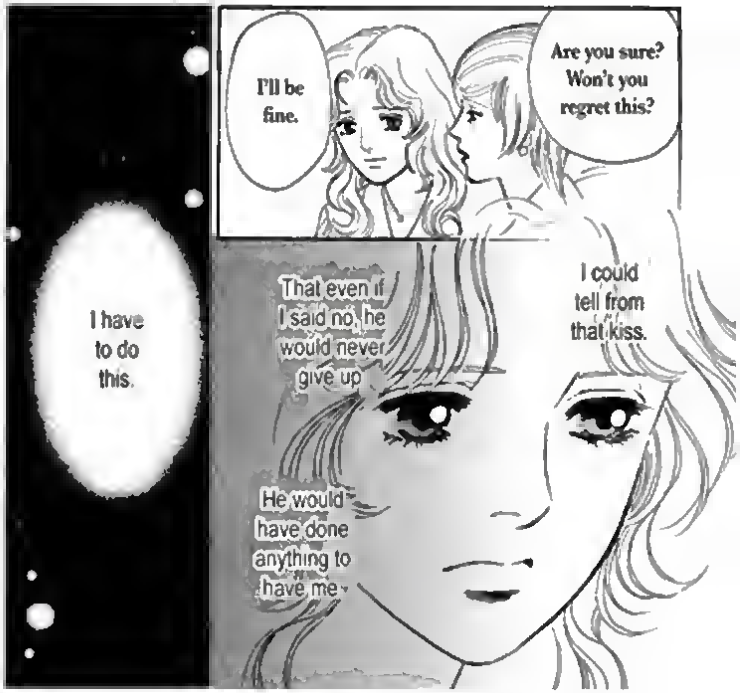

Mm...
Say my name.
Say it.
No!
I need a wife.
I don't care what you think. I chose you.
Let's make that clear.
Let go of me, Mr. Summer.
It's Blue.
A wife calls her husband by his first name.

Miss Lancaster, this way.
Miss Lan-caster!
I couldn't push him away
Such a strong yet genile kiss
Th...
Thank you.

Blue.
Go back to town and prepare for the wedding.
Don't worry about the costs. I'll call tomorrow.
Stare!
Edward, please take her home.
Yes, master.


Allison.
Congratulations.
Congratulations.
Thank you, Auntie.
You look beautiful.

You were worth bringing up.
Now we will have Summer's money.
Good girl, Allison!


I'll be fine.
Are you sure? Won't you regret this?
I have to do this.
That even if I said no, he would never give up
He would have done anything to have me
I could tell from that kiss.

Wow, Mr. Summer.
You've invited all the local celebrities!

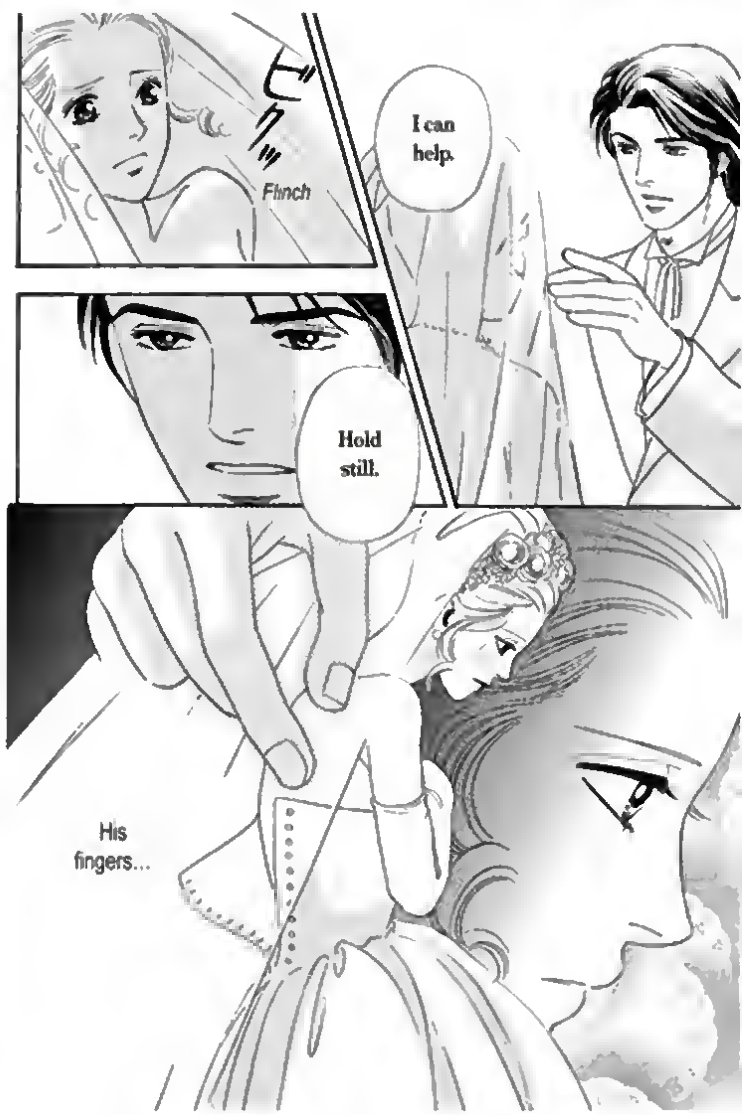
This marriage has nothing to do with your business.
Mr. Wallis.
That guy owns the largest farm in the next town.
I have a good piece of land he might want....
Can you introduce us?

But you haven't seen him since you said yes to his proposal.
He called every night.
It might work out.
Keep taking the pill so you can come back if it doesn't work out.

Auntie ...
I'm just sad to see you go. I keep saying such negative things.
But if he loved you, he would have come...
I'm sorry.

Blue.
Um...
Where's my aunt?
What?
She went home.
Why?
I...
There are too many buttons at the back.
Wanted her to help me change...
Mr. Summer!
That's not the deal...
But...
I'm married.
Are you tired?
Have I made a terrible mistake?

Thank you. I can do the rest.
Allison.

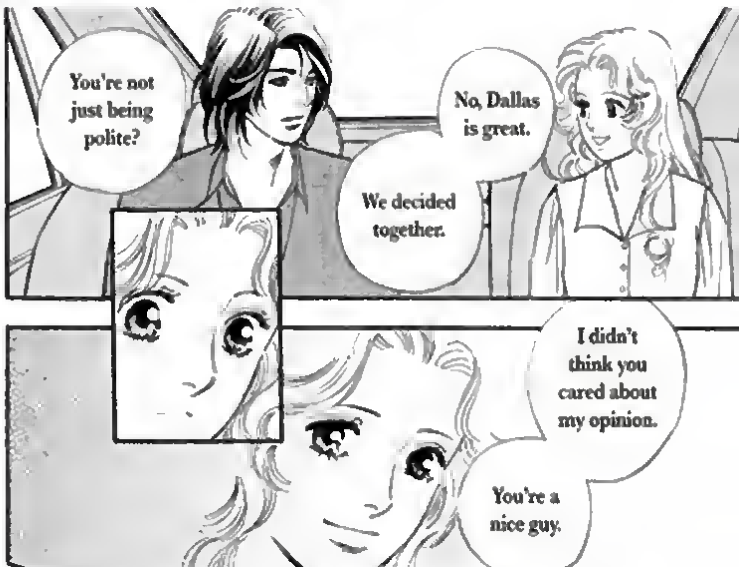

ビクッ
Flinch
I can help.
Hold still.
His fingers...

Was Dallas okay for our honeymoon?
Huh?
Did you want to go somewhere more romantic?
Like... Paris or something.

I can change by myself!
The limousine for our honeymoon is waiting outside. So be quick.

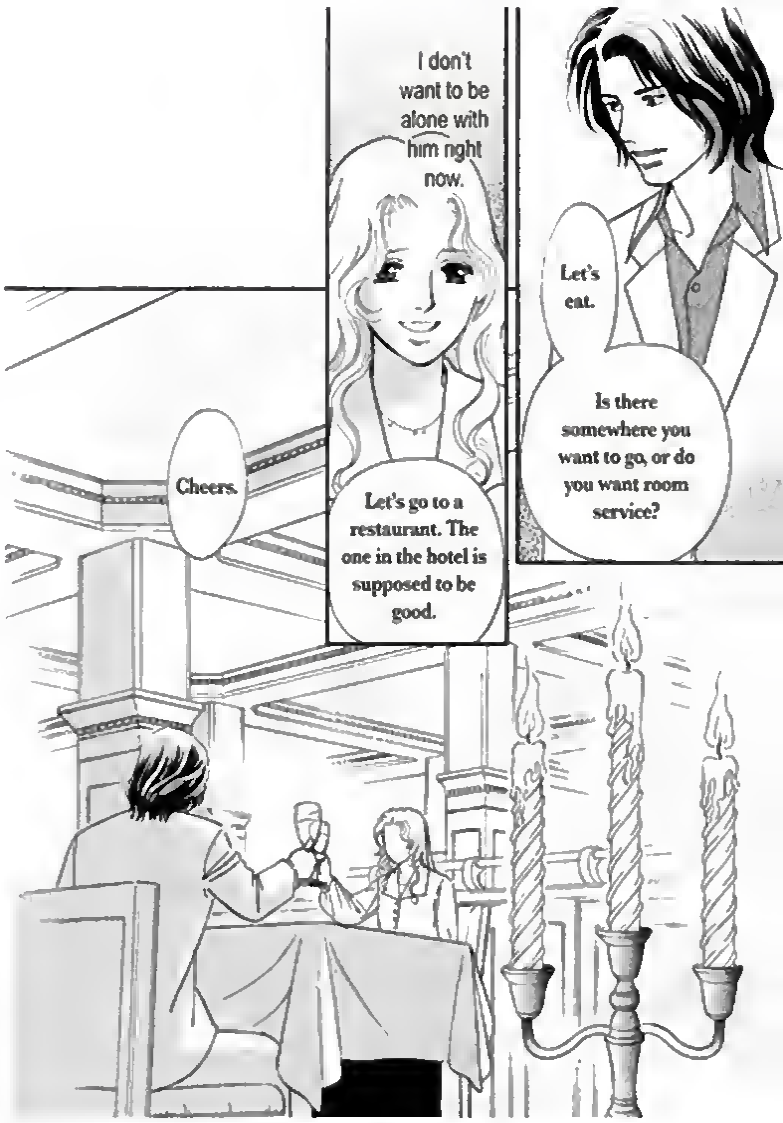
What a lovely room!

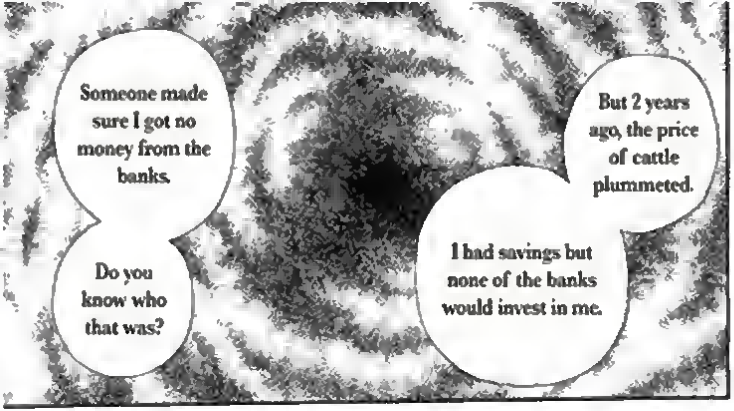
Don't worry. I won't rush you.
Oh.
You mean there's only one bed?
But ...


You're not just being polite?
No, Dallas is great.
We decided together.
I didn't think you cared about my opinion.
You're a nice guy.

...

My uncle made me marry you because you said you would help his bank.
I just want to check something.
But I never promised him that.
I know.
Let me tell you...
How I got my land.
コトッ
Clack
So all this was for nothing?
What?


I don't want to be alone with him right now.
Let's eat.
Is there somewhere you want to go, or do you want room service?
Let's go to a restaurant. The one in the hotel is supposed to be good.
Cheers.


Someone made sure I got no money from the banks.
But 2 years ago, the price of cattle plummeted.
I had savings but none of the banks would invest in me.
Do you know who that was?

I couldn't understand why he would do that.
Yes.
Was it... Uncle Charles?
So I did some digging.
I found out that he knew there was oil in my land.

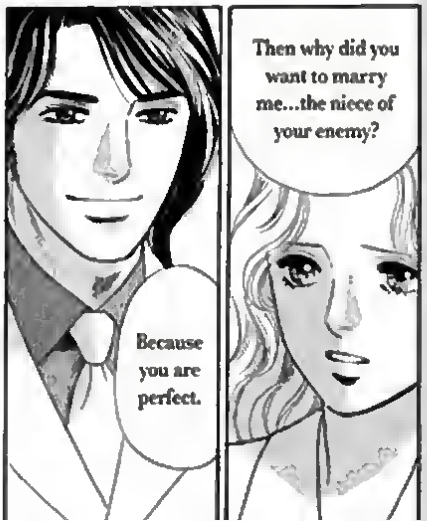
I lived there and worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.
My mother died when I was 4, and my father abandoned me when I was 13.
When I was 14 I quit school, and got a job at the biggest farm in town by lying about my age.
I saved all my wages,
and bought a small plot of land.
It was rough terrain.
I tamed wild cattle and nursed them when they were sick.
I never had any luxuries.
It was hard work setting up the farm.

You are kind to everyone, wise and beautiful.
You're perfect.
I've heard about you.
People love you for the volunteering you do for the church.

Last year I shouted at Marjorie Hampton and Eleanor Johnson.
Eleanor still won't speak to me.
I'm afraid what you heard is not true. I am far from perfect.
I sometimes get sick of volunteering.

I'm ashamed.
I didn't know.

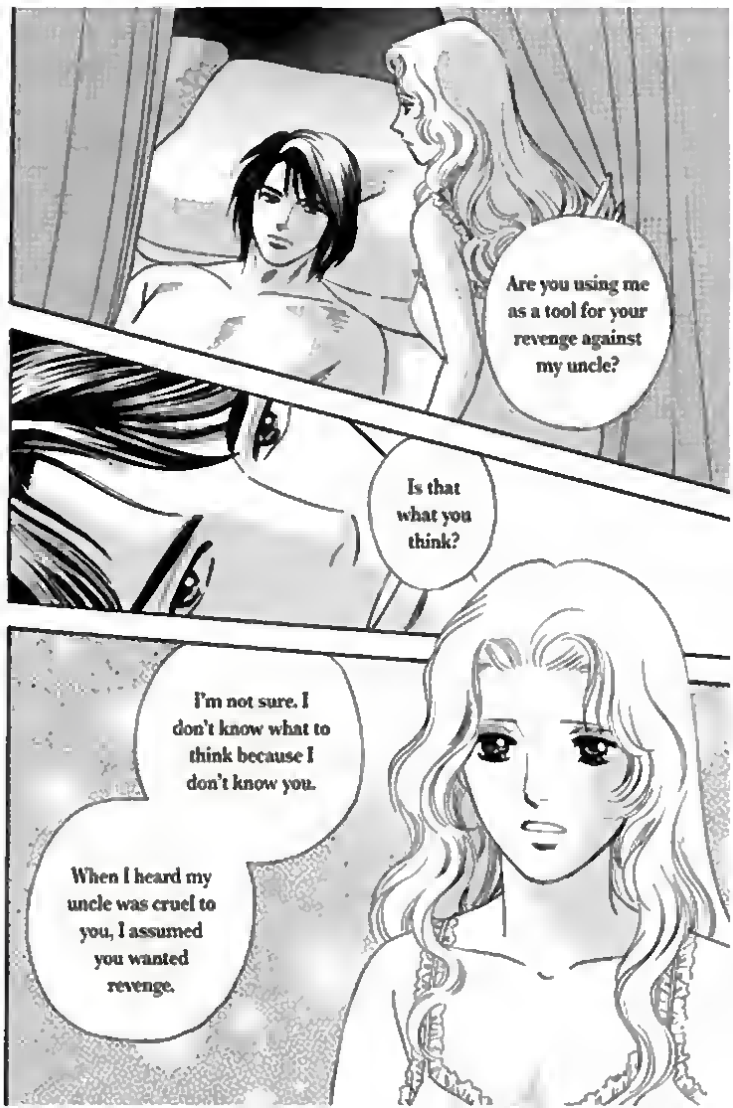
You shouldn't be ashamed.


Because you are perfect.
Then why did you want to marry me...the niece of your enemy?

He wanted me to lose my land so he could steal it from me.

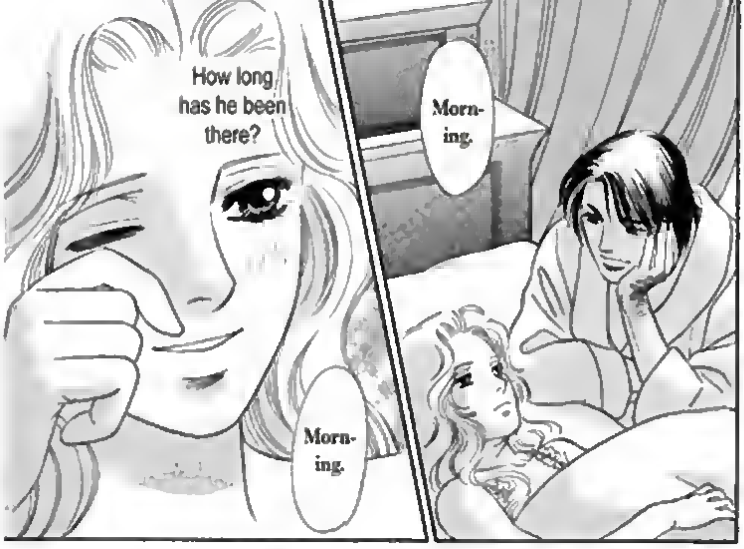
Come, Allison.
Um... I think we still need to talk.
Not today. I am tired.
I want to know what you want.
I don't know why he chose me...
I can't believe he would marry someone based on rumors.
He's hiding something.
You talk fast when you are embarrassed.
I like listening to you speak.
Let's go back to the room.
Blue...

That you wanted to shame me...
Give it a rest!
Don't think about it. Just go to sleep.


Are you using me as a tool for your revenge against my uncle?
Is that what you think?
I'm not sure. I don't know what to think because I don't know you.
When I heard my uncle was cruel to you, I assumed you wanted revenge.

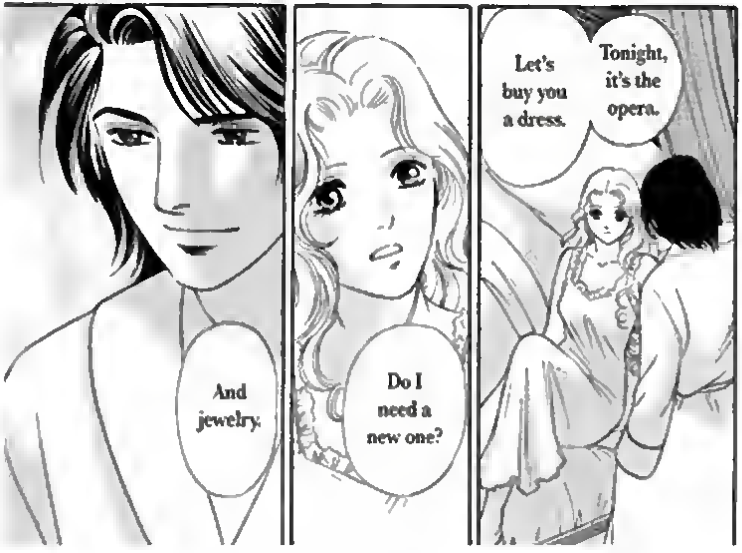
I wanted you.
Good night.

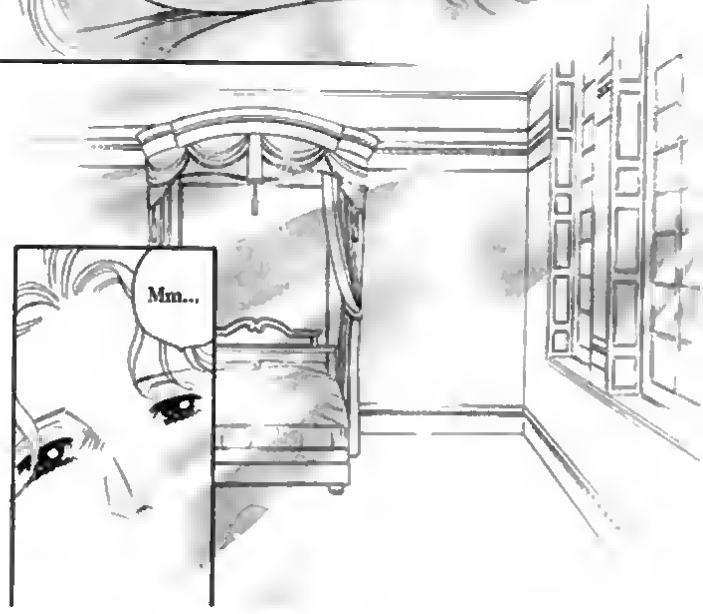
Are you still a virgin?
I just haven't met someone I was crazy about.
So I won't just sleep with anyone.
I want to love my husband, and be loved back.
Why didn't you marry one of those women?
So you were popular.
I don't even have to try and women fall for me.
I don't know how to make women feel that way.


How long has he been there?
Morn-ing.
Morn-ing.

I can tell he's trying hard to control himself.

I'm sorry I said you wanted to shame me.


And jewelry.
Do I need a new one?
Let's buy you a dress.
Tonight, it's the opera.


Mm...

But... wait!
Next, the jeweler's.
BVLGORI
This sapphire complements your eyes.
$ 30,000
30,000 dollars!!
Yes, sir.
Do you have matching earrings?
Nice.
Wallache
Beautiful.
This is perfect, ma'am!
What?
Thank you.
Let's buy all of them.

I'll take all of them.
Sir ...?
Blue.
Blue?
You don't understand.

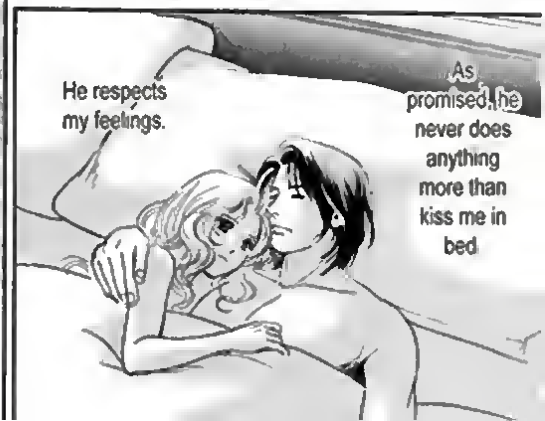
These rubies will go with your red dress.
Blue, I don't need more.
Did you want diamonds?
Blue!
Please stop! Don't waste money on me.
Waste?

Why are you angry?
I have never been able to spoil someone or buy them nice things.
I was looking forward to doing that for you.

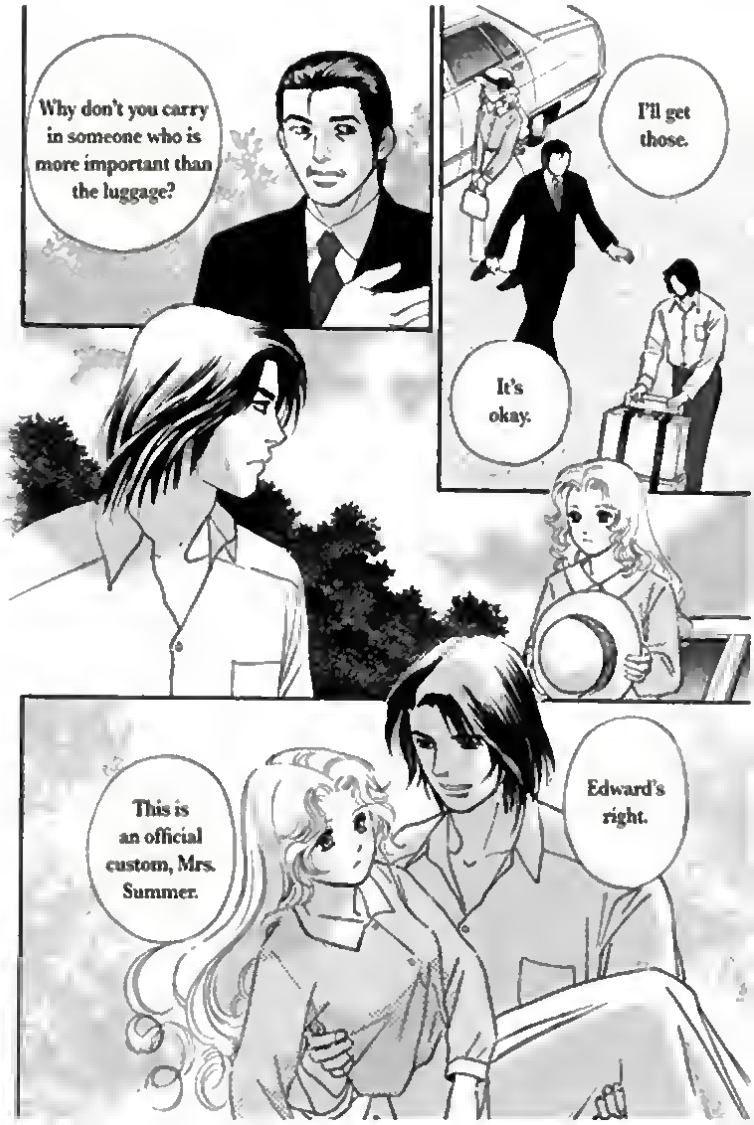
For a long time, he didn't have a family... He didn't have anyone to love.

That's right...

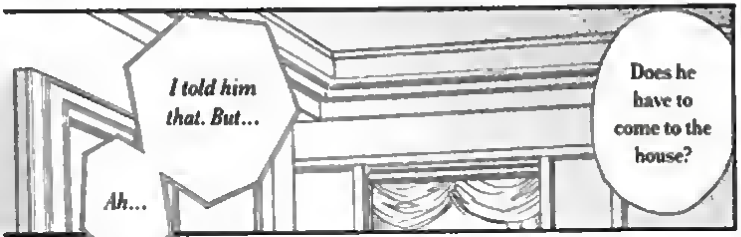
But it makes me feel like I want something more...



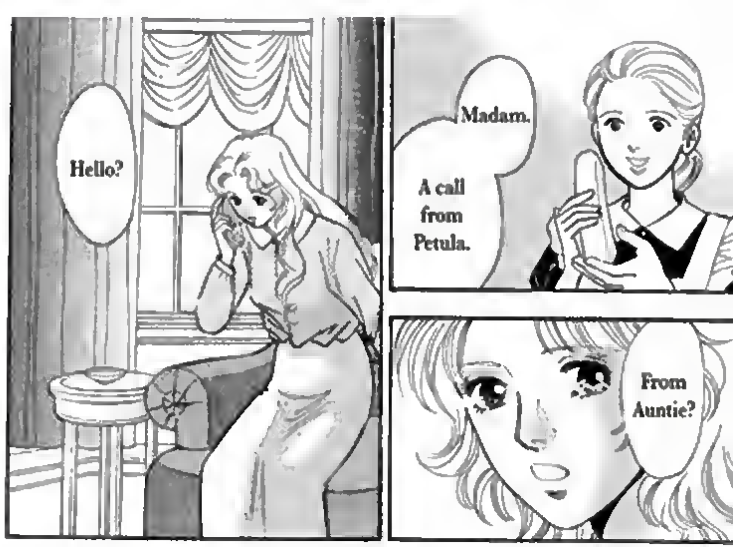
Edward is a perfectionist so he doesn't want me to carry the bags.
But I don't like people doing things for me.
Welcome home, master.
Me, neither.
Hi.
I guess we agree on that.

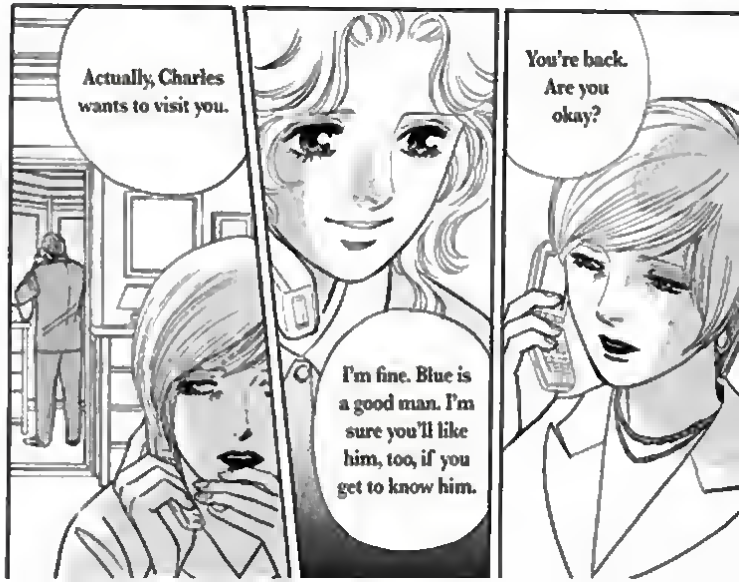

Why don't you carry in someone who is more important than the luggage?
I'll get those.
It's okay.
This is an official custom, Mrs. Summer.
Edward's right.

He wants to speak to Mr. Summer about his business.
I know. But he can't wait.
We just got back from our honeymoon.


I told him that. But...
Ah...
Does he have to come to the house?

I'm so sorry I got you into this.
Auntie?
I don't know what to do...
Charles is acting so strange recently...


Hello?
Madam. A call from Petula.
From Auntie?


Actually, Charles wants to visit you.
I'm fine. Blue is a good man. I'm sure you'll like him, too, if you get to know him.
You're back. Are you okay?

I want you to be comfortable in your home.
I'm married to you, so I want to be a good wife.
And I want us to come to love each other.
Your feelings are a burden.
Don't expect too much from this marriage.
What?

I'm sorry for crying.
All right.
Please.
Don't cry.
I will talk to Uncle Charles later so please make sure he doesn't come today.
You were listening?
Because... you don't want to see my uncle, do you?
Why did you do that?

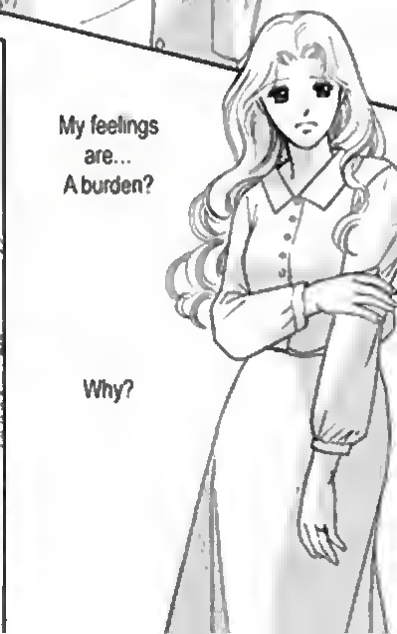
but it won't last forever.
She might say that now.

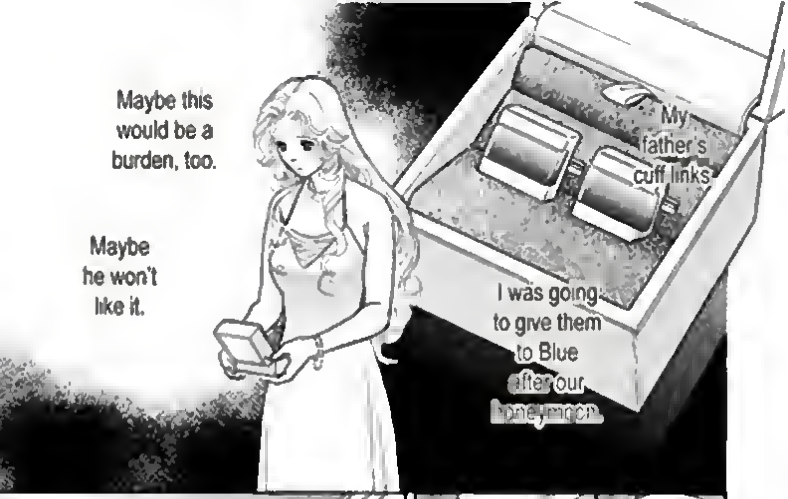
If she ever meets a more suitable and refined man...

I will feel the same loneliness I felt when my parents abandoned me.
Then I will be alone again.

Blue?
I'll be at the farm.

I cannot trust her.


My feelings are... A burden?
Why?


Maybe this would be a burden, too.
Maybe he won't like it.
My father's cuff links
I was going to give them to Blue after our honeymoon.

Ma'am. Dinner is ready.
Thank you. I'm coming.

I want a child.
Even if she leaves me, I will always have the child. Someone I can love.
If we have children...

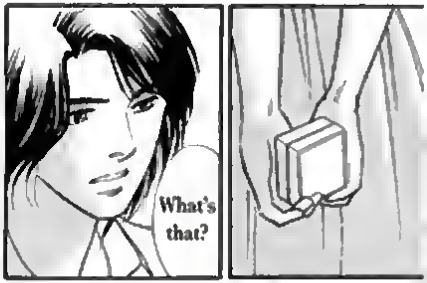
He's not happy.

I have another present, too... But should I give it to him?

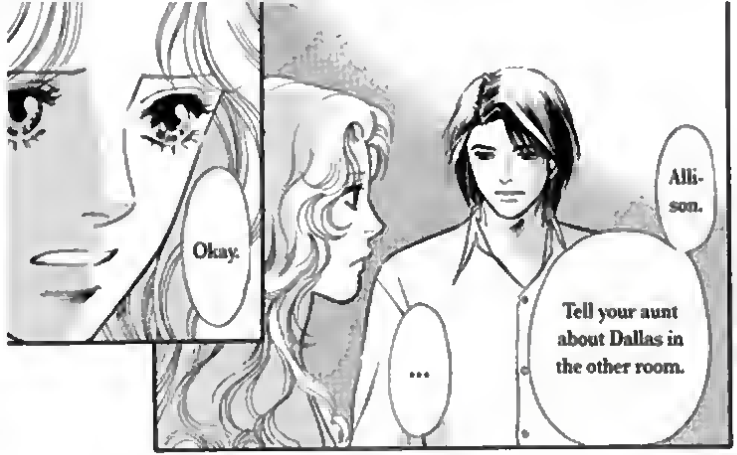
Thank you.

I see.
Fine.
How was the farm?

They ...
Were my father's.


What's that?

This ...
Is something I wanted to give you when we got back.


Okay.
Alli-son.
...
Tell your aunt about Dallas in the other room.

I'll show you what we bought in Dallas.

He gets so mad sometimes.
I thought it was just the bank, but it seems he has some other troubles, too.
I'm sorry. I couldn't stop him.

I told Auntie not to let him come!

Charles Wallis and his wife are here. They are in the living room.
Ding Dong

Uncle!
And on the day we return from our honeymoon?
It's rude to come uninvited!

Welcome back, Blue!

Blue.
What did you talk about?
I can't believe it...
Oh.
What?
A woman is claiming her child is his.
Trou-bles?
Auntie.
Charles is calling me. I better go.
Petula, we're leaving!
Thank you, Allison.
You know I am always on your side.

Please, Blue.
Stop!
No!
My...
Pre-cious...
Sweet Allison.
I feel the strength leaving my body...
I can't just sleep next to you anymore.
Flump
But we still don't know each other...
Me, too.
But not yet...
I don't care.
I want a child.

Since Blue is rich, I wanted to get him something he can't easily get with money.
He's tipped to win the competition next year.
I know.

I hope so...
That's not true.
I think he would love it.
But he might not like this horse.
I will call him.

Blue.
What a great horse!

It's him.
Um ...
I don't know if you'll like it, but...
He doesn't look happy.
I know.
It's a burden, right?

It was too soon
He used to always stay and watch me sleep
He was gone when I woke up
What did you want to show me?
Alli-son.

Remember,
Tolerance is to...
understand people who might be difficult, and to not push them away.
It sounds like Blue.
But maybe I was too tolerant.
Oh, Auntie.
I felt like he was talking about Charles.
And didn't make the decision when I should have.

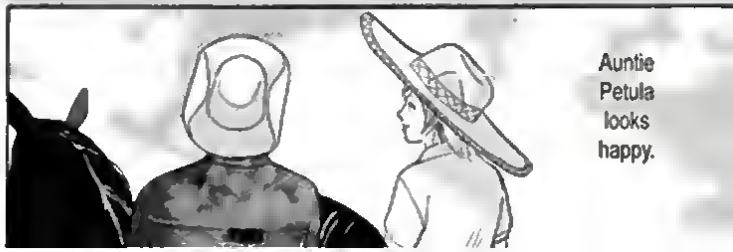
If you can't accept my gifts,
then I cannot accept the clothes and jewels you got me in Dallas.
How do I react to her emotions?
I am afraid to feel more than lust for her.
Alli-son!

These are your hats.
The master ordered them.
I look like Bigfoot.
Aren't they too big for us?
Not at all, Ms. Petula.
You look lovely.
Oh, Edward. You are kind.
If I don't consider divorce now.
I turned a blind eye to most things... But I am stupid,
You mean, divorce?
Auntie...
Yeah, that sounds great.
I'll call Blue.
You like horses, right? Blue has lots of them. I'm sure he'll let us ride them.
Hey. Want to come to the farm? To take your mind off things.

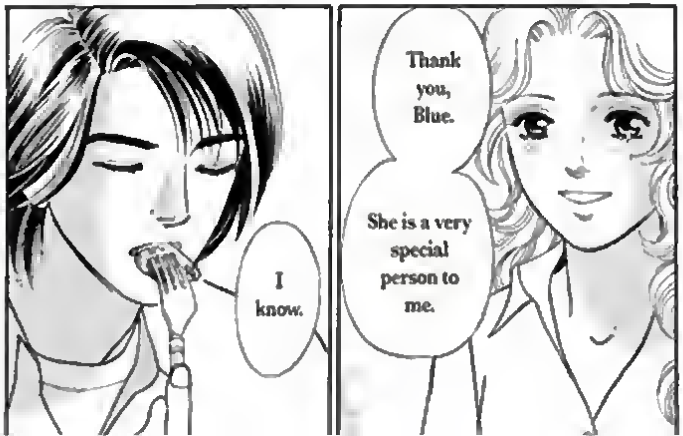
Where are you, Blue? I am right here.
You must be tired. Would you like a drink?
Thank you, Edward.
That was fun!

Okay.
I'm afraid he's busy, so I will be showing you the farm.
Where's Blue? I asked him to show us the farm.

Blue... Is he avoiding me?


Auntie Petula looks happy.

Yes, she did.
Did your aunt like the farm?
Can I invite her again?
You don't need my permission.
You can call her when you want.


I know.
Thank you, Blue.
She is a very special person to me.

Huh?

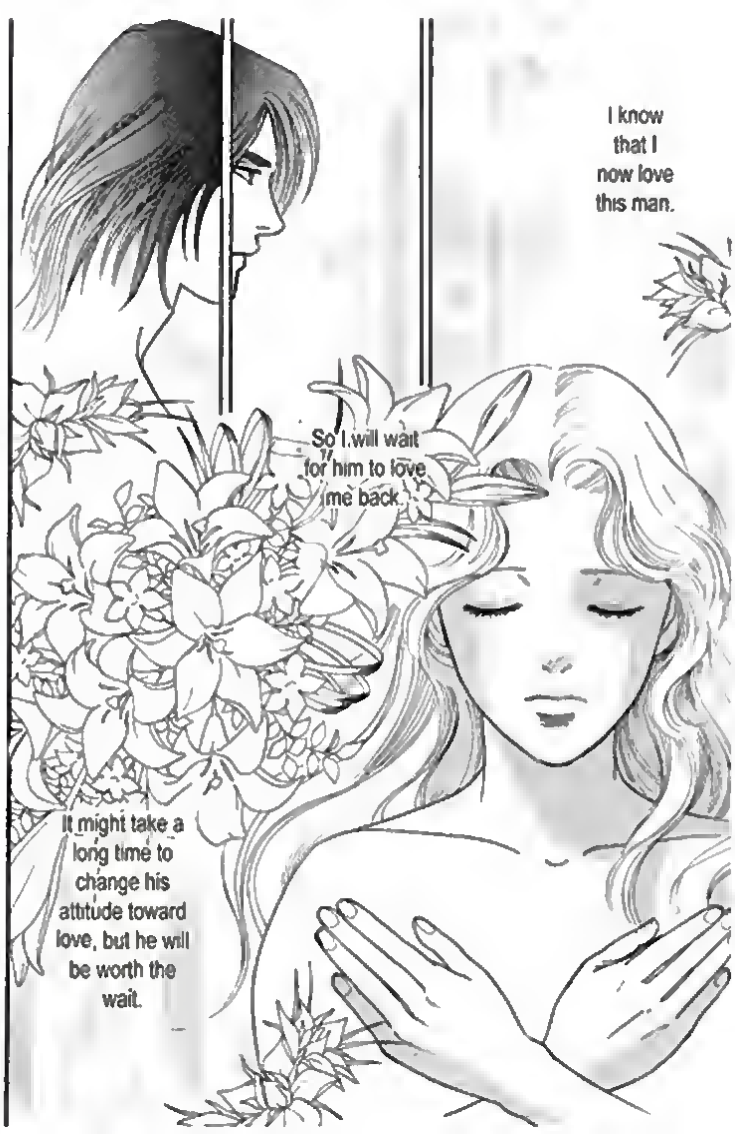
He's nice.
It looked like you two hit it off.

Auntie. Feel free to come back anytime you like.
Thank you, Allison.
He's just so good at complimenting women.
You were talking a lot.
I haven't been complimented by a man in years.

You're welcome, Blue.
I'm glad you liked them.
And I am honored you gave me your father's cuff links.
He's just not good with words.
He doesn't know how to love or be loved.

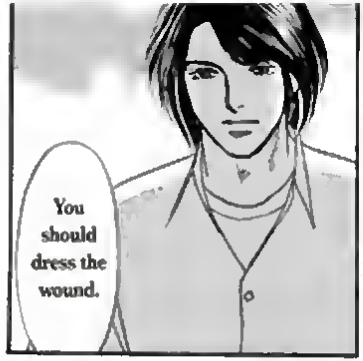
Clack
Clack
Clack
Clack
Um...
What?
Er...
I'll be going to bed now.
Alli-son.
Thank you for the horse.

Ha Ha Ha.
Over here!
Yay!
Yay!
Bang
Wait!
Miss Allison. Isn't it time for you to go now?
Wa...
Waaaa!
My husband is coming to pick me up, so I will help out until he comes.


I know that I now love this man.
So I will wait for him to love me back.
It might take a long time to change his attitude toward love, but he will be worth the wait.

Ugh ...
Waa ...
Don't cry.
There, there.

What's wrong?
Blue?


You should dress the wound.

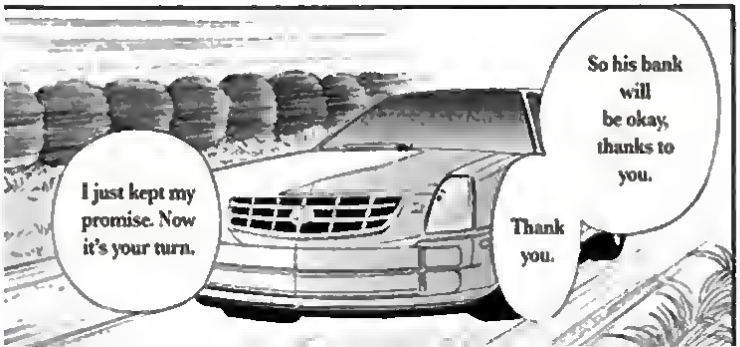
It hurts! Ms. Allison.
Oh, Johnny. Are you okay?

Blue.

Over there.
Where's the sink?

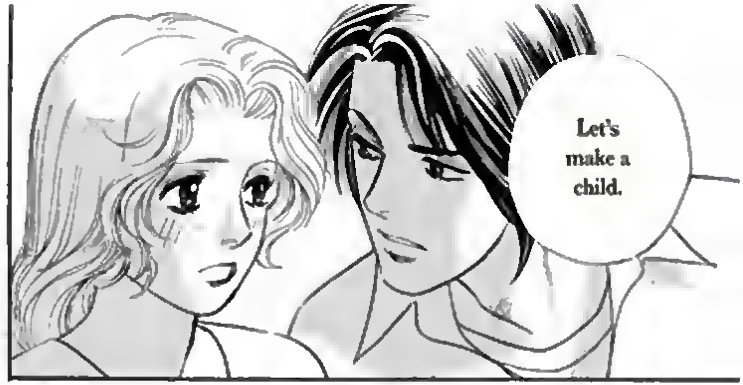
Don't be scared. He's my husband.
Your husband?

How is he?
He's fine.
Blue.
No. I've sorted that out.
I agreed to give his bank a sum of money.
Are you okay? Is it my uncle?


So his bank will be okay, thanks to you.
Thank you.
I just kept my promise. Now it's your turn.

Why can't I stand it?
It reminds me of my childhood.
Even when I got hurt, no one dressed my wounds.
But that boy is lavished with Allison's love and attention
So what?
She is my wife.

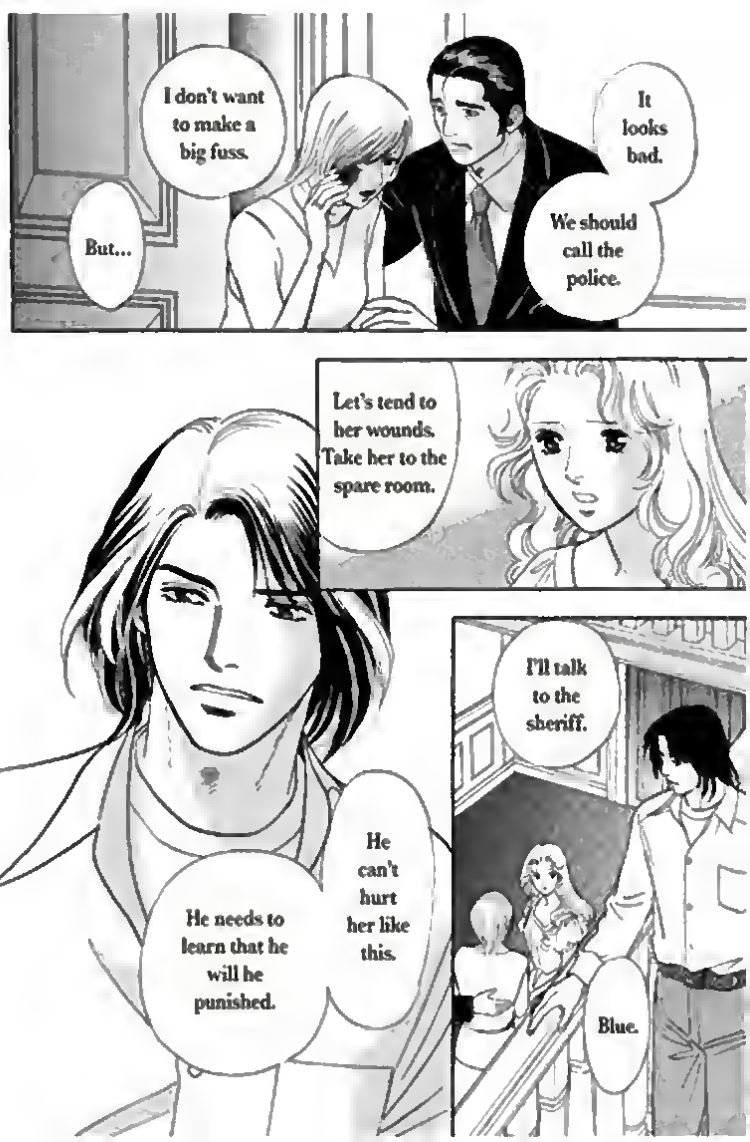
You want a divorce?
Yes.
Aren't these the papers from the courts?
How dare you look through my mail!

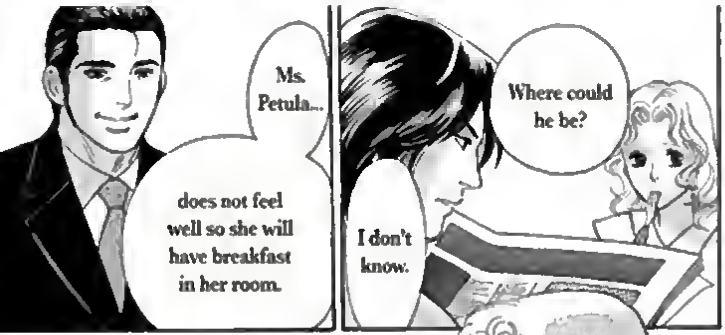

Let's make a child.

I haven't told him I am still talking the pill.
I need to tell him....

Edward,
Can you let me stay here?
What's wrong, Ms. Petula?
Help me!
Alli-son!
Auntie! Your face...
He hit you...
I can't forgive Charles anymore.
He never hit me before, no matter how angry he got.
Shut up!
Better than having a child with another woman!
Don't hit me!
What will happen to my social reputation if we got divorced?
I will never allow it!

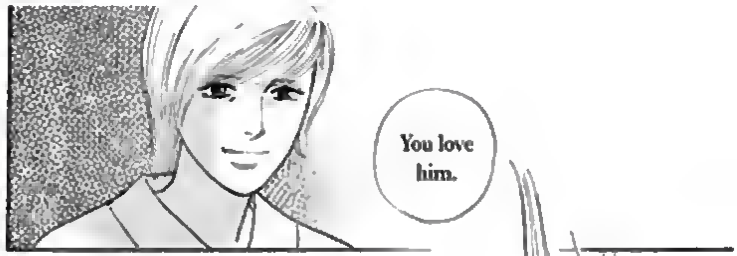
He...
Blue is not the man I thought he was.
What did you think?
Not very good things....
Blue is kind and patient.
He's more noble than a knight.


I don't want to make a big fuss.
But...
It looks bad.
We should call the police.
Let's tend to her wounds. Take her to the spare room.
He can't hurt her like this.
He needs to learn that he will he punished.
I'll talk to the sheriff.
Blue.


Ms. Petula...
does not feel well so she will have breakfast in her room.
Where could he be?
I don't know.

But it is my job.
I'll take it.

You don't like it?
It's fine.
They're fussing over Petula.

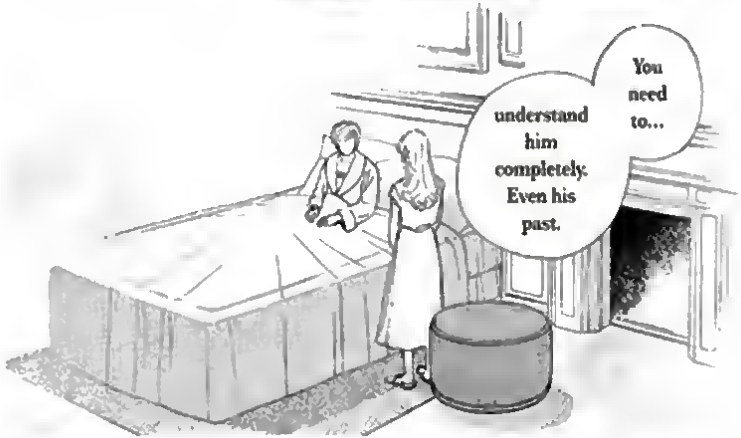

You love him.

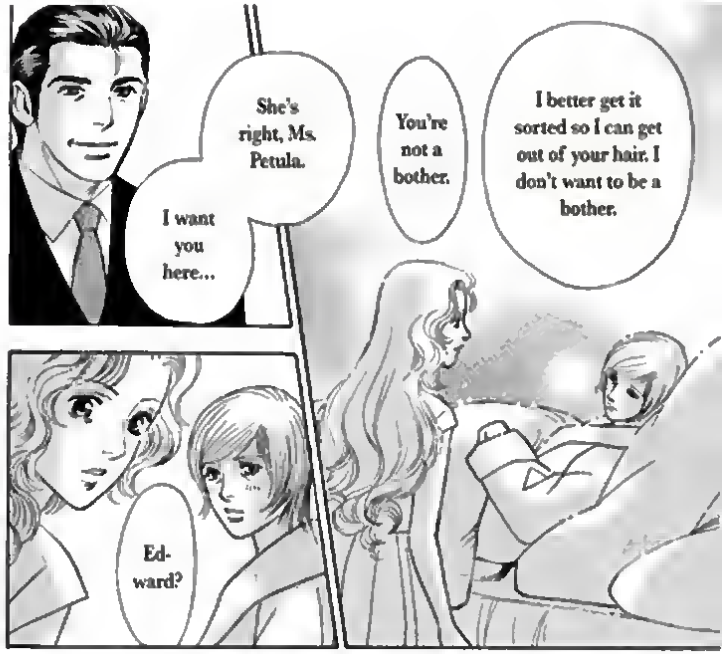
I do.
The sheriff is looking for Charles, but they cannot find him.

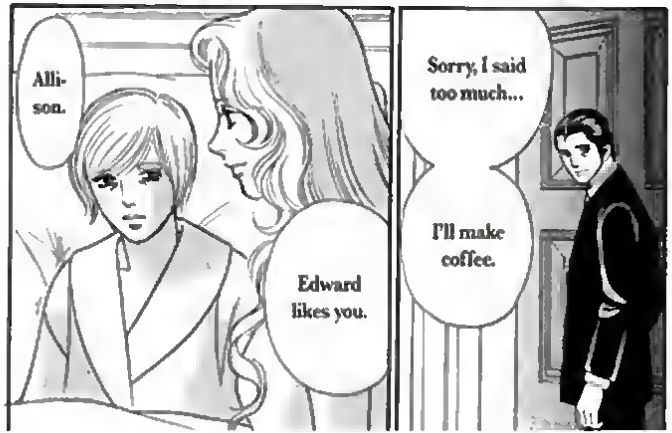
So she doesn't want a child with me.
She was taking the pill, even though she knew I wanted a child?
I'm meeting a lawyer on Sunday who will act on my behalf for the divorce.

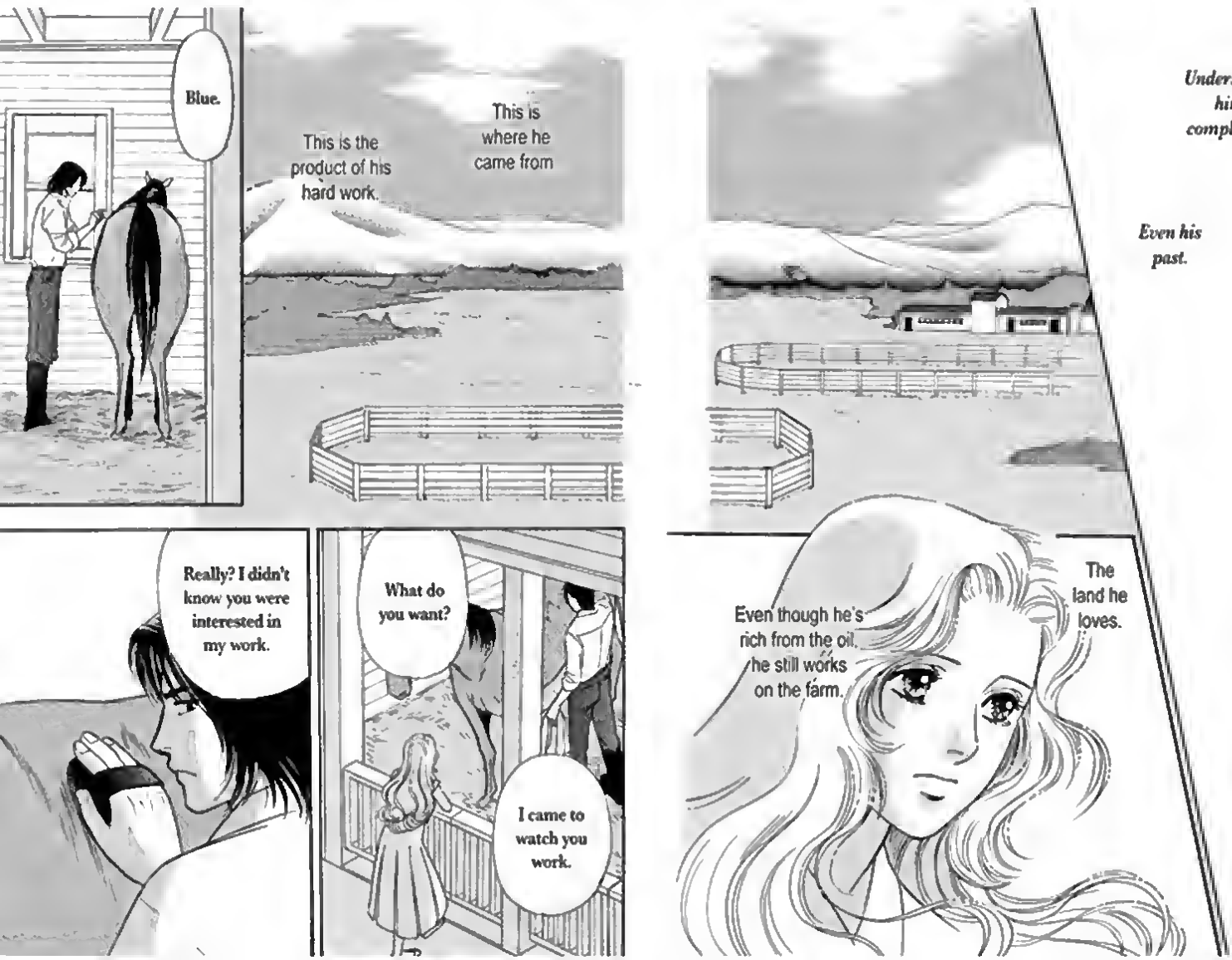
Aha ha
Ha Ha Ha
This is my house.
They're having fun without me
The pill?

He just doesn't smile much.
He knows how important you are to me.
But I don't think Blue likes me.
I appreciate that, but you need to focus on him, not me.
Alli-son.
I don't blame him. I'm gate-crashing the newlyweds' home.


You need to...
understand him completely. Even his past.


She's right, Ms. Petula.
I want you here...
You're not a bother.
I better get it sorted so I can get out of your hair. I don't want to be a bother.
Ed-ward?


Alli-son.
Edward likes you.
Sorry, I said too much...
I'll make coffee.

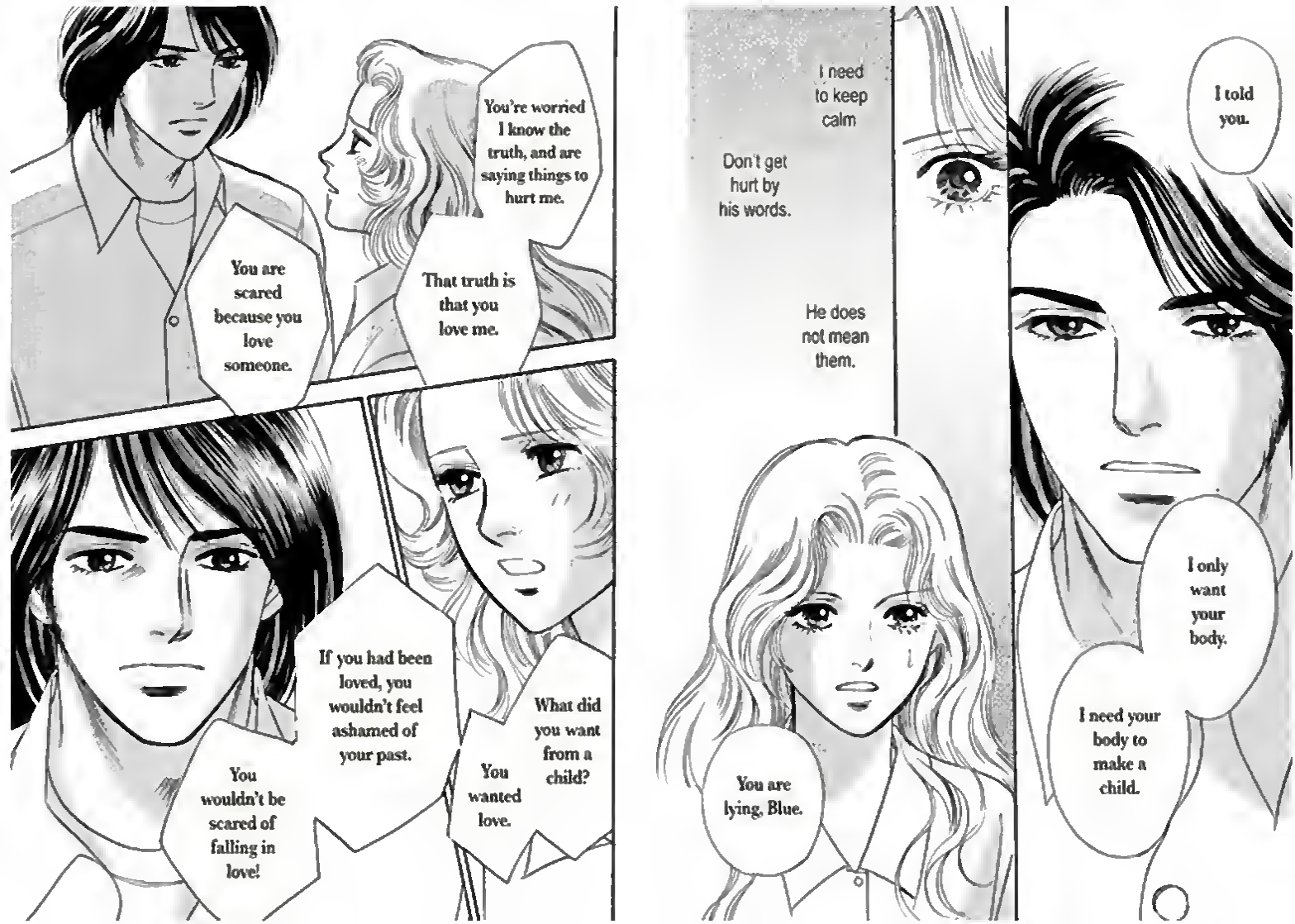

Blue.
This is the product of his hard work.
This is where he came from
Understand. him completely.
Even his past.
Really? I didn't know you were interested in my work.
What do you want?
I came to watch you work.
Even though he's rich from the oil, he still works on the farm.
The land he loves.

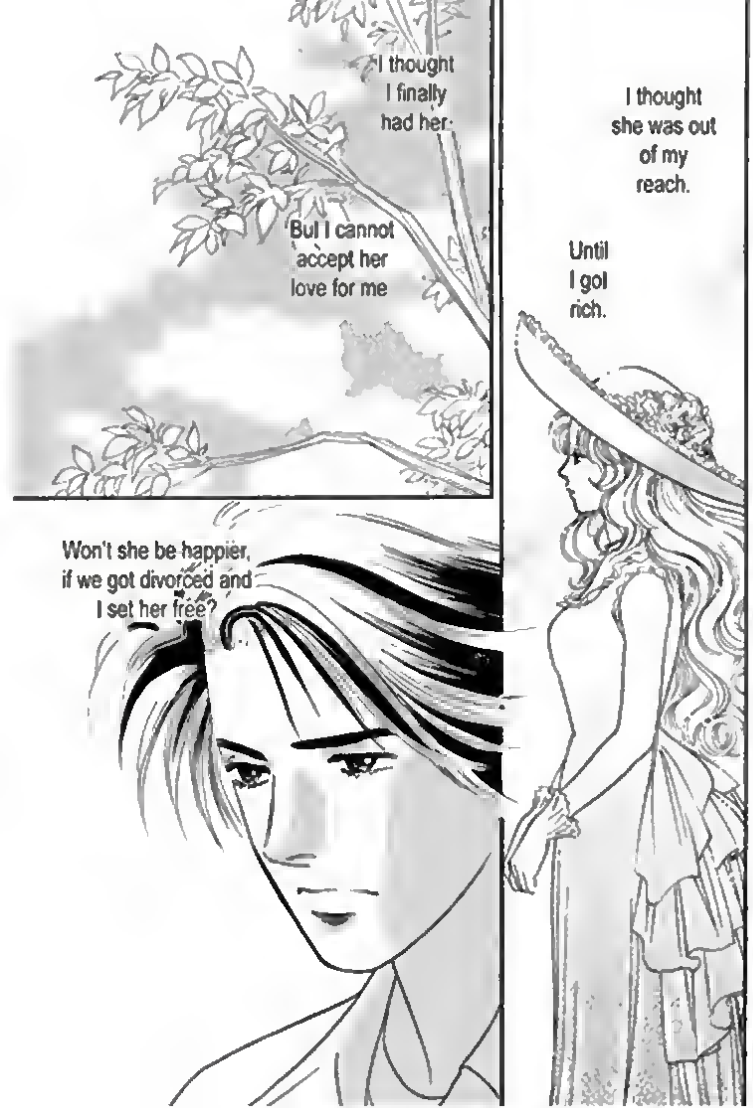
Blue.
What is important to me is not your riches, but you.
I don't care about your past. And I never will.
You are the most wonderful person I know.
Then we'll see what you say.
Fine. I will show you.

But it's full of memories.
There's nothing to see. I will demolish it soon..
The house you used to live in must be somewhere on this farm. Can I see it?
It's your history.
What memories?
cold drafts. I needed to get water from the well to use the toilet.
A leaking roof,
Memo-ries?

Please don't spew empty words of love.
I love you more than I can bear.
I don't care what you say, Blue.
I know that you're taking the pill.
You say you love me, but you don't want my child.
I just don't feel ready to have a child yet.
I...

Here we are.
Could you live in a dump like this, Ms. Allison Lancaster-Summer?
What if you had to sleep in this dirty bed and live with a man who couldn't get his children candy for Christmas, let alone a dress for you?
Can you still say those words?


You're worried I know the truth, and are saying things to hurt me.
That truth is that you love me.
You are scared because you love someone.
What did you want from a child?
You wanted love.
If you had been loved, you wouldn't feel ashamed of your past.
You wouldn't be scared of falling in love!
I need to keep calm
Don't get hurt by his words.
He does not mean them.
You are lying, Blue.
I told you.
I only want your body.
I need your body to make a child.


I thought I finally had her.
But I cannot accept her love for me
I thought she was out of my reach.
Until I got rich.
Won't she be happier, if we got divorced and I set her free?

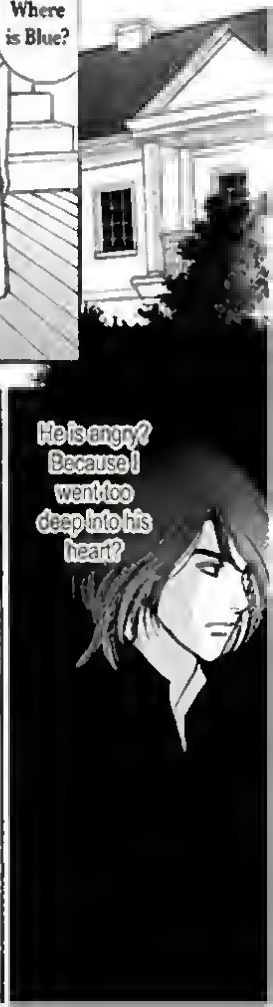
Blue!
I have known her for a long time
Allison Lancaster.
Every time I saw her, I dreamed.
Dreamed that I would have her
In front of the church
In town

I need your body to make a child.
I shouldn't have said that
She will never forgive me

Will I spend the rest of my life regretting the fact I rejected her affections?

Okay ...
Edward. Where is Blue?
He's not home yet.

What if I lose him because of this?
What if he never forgives me?
I don't want to lose you, Blue.


He is angry? Because I went too deep into his heart?

Blue.
What are you doing here? It's hot outside.
You'll get burned.
I came to tell you I know what you're trying to do.

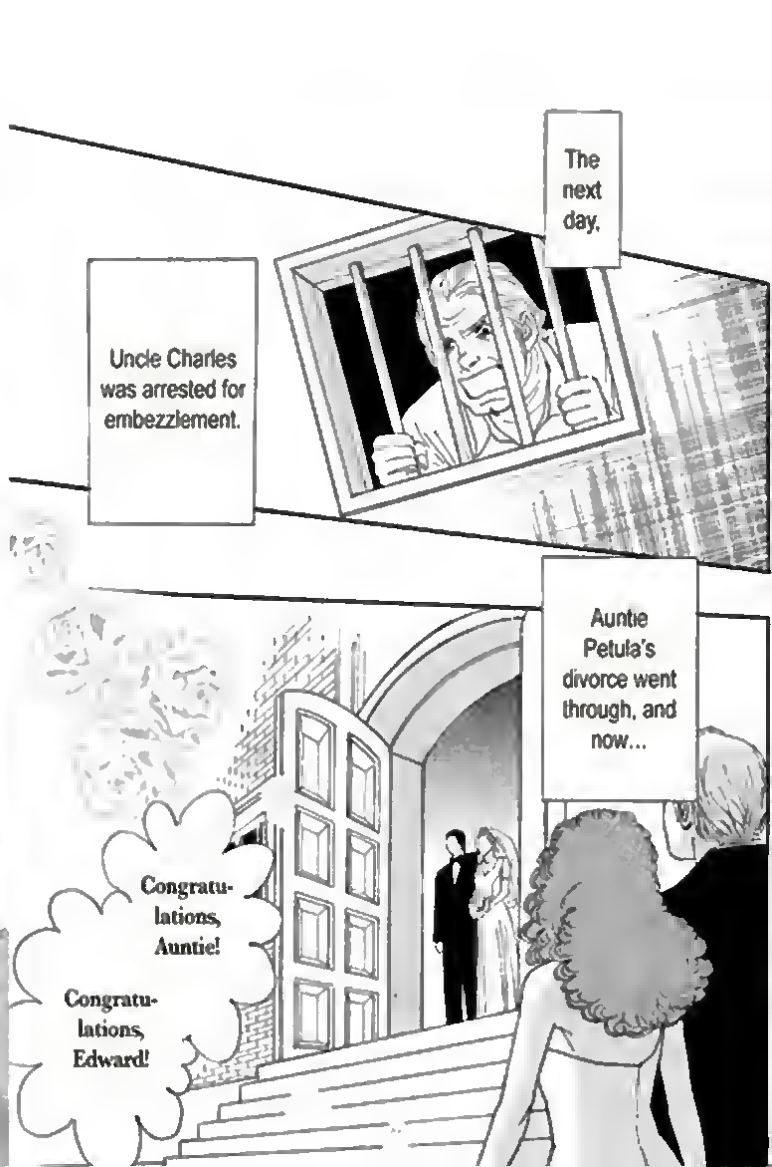
Is he going to sleep separately from now on?
He never came home

How do you feel about what I said?
I...
What am I trying to do?
You are testing me.
Testing my love.
I know why, but you need to know something important.
I don't plan to leave you.
Even if you throw me out.

Don't cry. I can't stand your tears.
These are tears of happiness.
I love you.

I already have.
I should never have said that.
I wish I could take it back.
I regret it.
Can you forgive me?

I didn't think I would be a best man so soon after my own wedding.
Thank you.
All the best.
An Arranged Marriage The End


The next day.
Uncle Charles was arrested for embezzlement.
Auntie Petula's divorce went through, and now...
Congratulations, Auntie!
Congratulations, Edward!

Shojo-Manhwa Scans

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